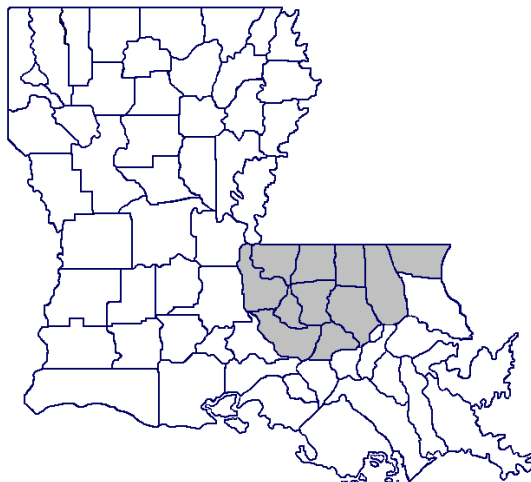


REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 2
FIRST QUARTER 2003 EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES
SUBJECT TO THE LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW

Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville,
 Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, Tangipahoa,
 Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana



The average quarterly employment for RLMA 2 during first quarter 2003 was 373,777, a decrease of 1.2% from the fourth quarter 2002, and an increase of 0.3% from the same period in 2002. Employment increased in six of the 20 NAICS sectors from the fourth quarter 2002. The largest percentage increase of 8.2% was in mining.

Average quarterly employment data for first quarter 2003, fourth quarter 2002, first quarter 2002, and the percent change for the major industry sectors is shown in the table "Average Quarterly Employment" on page 24. Health care and social assistance was the leading industry in RLMA 2 with 45,476 employees, or 12.2% of total employment. East Baton Rouge was the leading parish with 238,740 employees, or 63.9% of total employment.

Total wages increased 3.4% from the same period in 2002, and decreased by 4.3% from the fourth quarter 2002, for an average weekly wage of \$598.03. Iberville parish had the highest average weekly wage of \$806.62.

Average weekly wage data for each parish in RLMA 2 is listed in the table below. The average weekly wage data for all parishes within each NAICS sector is shown in the table "Regional Labor Market Area 2" beginning on page 27.

Parish	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Ascension	\$ 651.68
East Baton Rouge	623.91
East Feliciana	463.56
Iberville	806.62
Livingston	432.12
Pointe Coupee	463.79
St. Helena	400.77
Tangipahoa	432.87
Washington	440.11
West Baton Rouge	623.44
West Feliciana	782.74

The number of reporting units in RLMA 2 for first quarter 2003 was 21,735.

Due to the conversion to NAICS, this data should not be compared to data in publications prior to first quarter 2001.

REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 2
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT

